

GEORGE H. SUTHERLAND.

FEBRUARY 29, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 450.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 450) granting an increase of pension to George H. Sutherland, have examined the same and report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$16 to \$24 per month the pension of George H. Sutherland, late of Company G, Seventy-second Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

The papers in this case show that George H. Sutherland first enlisted in the Regular Army April 28, 1847, in Company D, First U. S. Infantry, and served five years, being honorably discharged at the expiration of the term of his enlistment. He again enlisted October 23, 1861, in Company G, Seventy-second Ohio Infantry, and was honorably discharged December 14, 1864, his whole period of service being over eight years.

Claimant applied under the general law and was pensioned for rheumatism and resulting disease of heart, contracted during his service, at the rate of \$8 per month from September 7, 1881, which rate was increased to \$12 per month June 29, 1887, and to \$16 per month March 27, 1889. He filed a claim for increase March 13, 1893, which was rejected January 18, 1899, on the ground that his rate was commensurate with the disability from pensioned cause.

Claimant also applied under the general law for additional disabilities, disease of liver and kidneys, chronic diarrhea, erysipelas, and results of sunstroke; but his application was rejected on the ground that he was not ratably disabled for those causes.

Claimant is 76 years old, and the evidence on file shows him to be broken down by age and disease and totally disabled for manual labor. His last medical examination, dated July 21, 1897, rated him \$8 for rheumatism, \$4 for disease of heart, \$2 for indigestion, \$8 for disease of nervous system, and \$4 for enlarged prostate. It is in evidence that he is a poor man, without property or income except his pension.

In view of his long and faithful service, his advanced age, total disability, and poverty your committee are of opinion that a reasonable increase of his pension is proper.

The bill is therefore reported back favorably with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "thirty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty-four."

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